



# WFP Ukraine

## External Situation Report #45

15 December 2023

In 2023 to date, a total of **157,141 mt** of food and **USD 235 million** of cash has been delivered.

Year/ Month	Transfers		Beneficiaries										Total Beneficiaries	
	Food Delivered (MT)	Cash Transfer Value (USD)	In-Kind Food Assistance					Cash-Based Assistance						
			Bread	Rapid Resp. Rations	30-Day Ration	Suppl. Feeding	Instit. Feeding	Multi- Purpose Cash	Value Vouchers	Compl. Social Benefits	Market- based Trans. support	School Feeding		
2023														
January	20,741	43,638,960	395,658	410,753	1,100,545	5,374	372,848	731,406	-	-	-	-	-	3,016,585
February	20,702	45,847,318	261,770	375,747	1,179,649	55,450	403,080	729,730	25,000	-	-	12,095	-	3,042,521
March	16,479	43,228,961	690,230	215,999	852,222	49,633	478,867	681,435	30,344	-	-	12,095	-	3,010,825
April	13,957	39,023,190	422,236	309,345	706,251	6,230	296,098	630,595	15,388	-	-	12,095	-	2,398,238
May	14,128	15,421,127	378,820	249,662	714,758	-	293,405	235,163	16,305	-	-	12,095	-	1,900,208
June	10,111	4,889,854	359,819	265,577	499,267	-	272,865	83,615	-	-	-	2,982	-	1,484,125
July	9,554	9,705,780	389,831	75,207	503,500	-	262,300	165,046	-	-	-	-	-	1,395,884
August	9,232	9,191,032	157,045	102,638	510,981	-	252,742	102,267	-	268,629	-	-	-	1,394,302
September	10,233	7,773,238	144,780	80,667	608,040	-	222,231	79,960	-	261,499	-	-	-	1,397,177
October	10,433	4,127,666	159,010	101,322	599,621	-	231,000	-	-	259,587	27,317	-	-	1,377,857
November	12,025	11,876,372	153,789	67,473	667,078	-	338,529	54,547	-	313,539	40,892	-	-	1,635,847
December	9,545	-	116,759	21,239	527,461	-	385,589	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,051,048

### Key Highlights

- An estimated **14.6 million Ukrainian people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024**, according to the 2024 Global Humanitarian Overview, published on 11 December.
- Between 11 and 12 December, 14 Cooperating Partners selected for 2024 were onboarded, among which 11 are Ukrainian local partners.
- In November, almost 314,000 beneficiaries were reached with **complementary social benefits** assistance, increased by 20 percent since October.
- Increased attacks on civilian infrastructure are reported across Ukraine, exacerbated by harsh winter conditions.

### Situation Update

**Frontline communities remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance**, as access to food continues to be a challenge, exacerbated by the cold and harsh winter conditions, now well settled in all over Ukraine. The speculated increased attacks over the winter season are now a reality across the country; missile and drone attacks against civilian infrastructure are frequently occurring in many cities, even in parts which endured relatively fewer attacks previously. Kyiv, which started seeing noticeable increase since mid-November, was targeted more than three times last week, with increased civilian injuries. The attack on 13 December left more than 53 people injured. While air defence systems are providing protection to avoid civilian casualties, more explosions are heard before the air raid

siren alerts, adding to the heightened sense of unease.

Cyberattacks are also impeding access to the air raid alert system. On 13 December, due to a cyberattack on one of Ukraine's largest mobile operators, millions of people have been left without access to the air raid alert system in northern and central areas of the country.

Explosive objects continue to be one of the main obstacles in restoring livelihoods and overall food systems. In the areas where the Government of Ukraine recently regained control from the Russian Federation forces alone, close to 600 incidents have been recorded, killing 277 people and injuring 600 people, with the majority in Mykolaiv, Kherson and Kharkiv regions, [according to the national Mine-Action Authority](#) on 13 December. In response to this situation, in the budget revision to extend WFP Ukraine's current operational framework, Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) by 6 months until the end of 2024, once approved by the Executive Board, the agricultural mine action project is introduced as an activity under the crisis response, noting its significance.

WFP continues to engage with partners on two key matters, 2023/2024 winter plans and agricultural mine action. On 12 December, in its end-of-year partners briefing, WFP informed 15 attendees from the government donor community about how the latest food security assessments close to and beyond the frontline guided the winter response, school feeding, the complementary social benefits programme, as well as the support to the Ukrainian food systems especially in locations close to the hostilities. **WFP is providing market-based assistance with most of the in-kind food assistance concentrated along the frontline reflecting that these locations have the most severe needs.** While 2.4 million people are planned to be served this winter every month, needs on the ground are closely monitored in case of any increase.

As the end of the year comes closer, the needs for the following year have been announced on 11 December in the [2024 Global Humanitarian Overview](#). **Ukraine, with the total 14.6 million people in need for 2024** (40 percent of the population of Ukraine) requires USD 3.1 billion, accounting for 7 percent of the global figure as the second largest single-country appeal. This figure represents a vast need persisting in the country due to the ongoing hostilities.

As WFP looks ahead, 14 cooperating partners (CPs) have been selected for 2024, and onboarded between 11-12 December, among which 11 are Ukrainian national NGOs.

## WFP Ukraine Response

WFP continues to refine its **market-based approach** to deliver the appropriate types of assistance, according to the market circumstances, providing different options via diversified modalities.

### Cash-based Assistance

WFP's cash programmes and its cash transfer mechanism continue to provide reliable and timely support to those in need. This is not only used for WFP initiatives, but also utilised to support other humanitarian actors to reach

beneficiaries, presenting an opportunity for strengthened inter-agency collaboration. For instance, through two rounds using WFP's cash transfer mechanism, between January and October 2023, WFP supported UNESCO to provide emergency grants to a total of 360 Ukrainian journalists to ensure timely and accurate information flows to the public.

In November, WFP disbursed almost **USD 11.9 million** through various cash-based assistance modalities to **over 400,000 people in need**. Among them were 17 Ukrainian evacuees from the Gaza strip, who remained in a collective centre in Odesa after arriving in the country. They were assisted with cash support on 28 November.

Following the increase of the minimum sustainable Government pension by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as of 24 November, WFP's support under the **Complementary Social Benefits programme** increased accordingly both in amount and the number of beneficiaries. Close to 314,000 people were supported in November, compared to 260,000 in the previous month. WFP is working on establishing a partnership with a local mail service provider, Ukrposhta, to deliver cash assistance to beneficiaries without bank accounts. This partnership is expected to increase the overall reach not only under this programme by 12 percent but across all cash-based assistance modalities.

Vendor registration is ongoing for the **school feeding programme** to start transferring financial resources for the 2023-2024 academic year. WFP is collecting Letters of Guarantee from Heads of Hromadas, to ensure the funds received will be utilized according to the signed agreements at the Oblast level. At the same time, the lists of schools to take part in the winter expansion were sent to relevant administrations of both old and new oblasts for approval, including Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy and Vinnytsia. On 4 December, WFP discussed priority projects and key strategies to meet the needs of the 2024 school nutrition reform, in a session organized by the Office of the First Lady of Ukraine.

### In-Kind Food Assistance

So far, WFP reached over **1,050,000 people** in December through a combination of bread, rapid response rations, 30-day rations, and institutional feeding. In-kind assistance is designed to serve people living in hard-to-reach areas, where a local market is deemed not functional, due to ongoing hostilities, damaged infrastructure, mine contamination, or limited power supply. The vast majority of the food assistance is provided near the frontline areas.

### Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP and UNFPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide in-kind food assistance to 60 shelters of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors across Ukraine on 14 December, the last day of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV. GBV survivors may experience limited access and control over resources, leading to limited access to food, adopting negative coping mechanisms, which can worsen their food and nutritional security. Through such a partnership, WFP aims to address nutritional needs while contributing to more dignified and resilient living among the

affected people.

Also, a new online feedback form as part of WFP community feedback mechanism was presented on the same day. It will be accessible through a QR code on the distributed food boxes.

On 4 December, on the occasion of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, a panel discussion was held, with 66 participants both in-person and online. Six panellists including the WFP Representative and Country Director and Deputy Country Director, Operations, and representatives from the National Assembly of People with Disabilities, exchanged expertise on enhancing disability inclusion.

During the last two weeks, WFP's toll-free hotline received 13,439 calls (12,773 during the working hours), of which 9,689 came from unique phone numbers. In total, 8,543 calls were processed by the hotline operators. Over 86 percent of processed cases were closed as First Case Resolution (FCR) without referral, while the remaining were referred to relevant programme focal points. Almost all (98.1 percent) of the processed calls were CBT-related, such as requests for information on the amount of cash assistance and dealing with Money Transfer Control Number codes. The remaining (1.9 percent) requested information about food and value vouchers, in terms of entitlements, timing, and location.

## WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems

So far, in December, over 9,500 mt of food was dispatched to CPs. By 15 December, an additional 42,727 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (15,462 mt of food in storage, and 27,265 mt of food in transit or pending supplier delivery).

WFP continues to tailor assistance to meet the local needs and preferences. Following the feedback received from food beneficiaries and consultations with the CPs, buckwheat is planned to be introduced in the food basket in 2024. Procurement plans are currently underway.

### Warehouse management

On 1 December, the facility upgrade works at the Kropyvnytskyi warehouse were completed. A storage capacity of total 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> is available with a new temperature control area for the storage of commodities, and a separate kitting area.

### Local Food Systems

Following the latest WFP scoping missions, so far, 23 small bakeries (with daily capacity less than 10 mt) in Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, and Mykolaiv oblasts have been recommended as part of the local bakery project with necessary improvements. Six bakeries have already implemented the required corrective measures. Five are registered as vendors, with the last currently in the process. WFP is also strengthening capacities of the small bakeries by supplying appliances related to pest control and hygiene.

### Agricultural Mine Action Project

As heavy land mine contamination remains a critical concern among farmers and rural communities in Ukraine, FAO and WFP are jointly **helping restore livelihoods and revitalize rural communities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war**. The project works to release agricultural lands and provides key agricultural resources and inputs, prioritizing Ukraine's breadbasket regions including Kharkiv, Kherson and Mykolaiv oblasts.

Due to the harsh weather conditions, all field activities including non-technical surveys (NTS) and land clearance were suspended. As of 13 December, Ordnance Risk Education, which continues over the winter period, has reached over 23,000 beneficiaries through 650 sessions conducted in the project area of Kharkiv Oblast.

Several field missions still continued between 6-8 December in Kharkiv oblast, to assess the soil contamination situation caused by the war in Izium and Chuhuiv, as well as to consult the local authorities in Oskilska hromada for the selection of household plots for clearance. On 1 December, WFP met with FAO to discuss implementation and expansion of the project in 2024, including optimization of the future funding allocation, and engagement with other partners, stakeholders, and communities.

### Grain movement

WFP continues to facilitate grain movement whenever possible, with the latest Grain from Ukraine (GFU) shipment heading for Nigeria. On 12 December, MV FUAT SEZGIN commenced loading of 25,000 mt of wheat for Nigeria from the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) stock at Samsun port in Türkiye. In parallel, grain is being collected from local Ukrainian suppliers to replenish the GCMF.

On 5 December 2023, WFP facilitated the visit of the State Secretary for International Development Cooperation at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the port of Chornomorsk. The Swedish delegation visited a grain terminal and held a discussion with the Ukrainian Sea Port Authority (USPA). The visit follows the recent announcement of the additional Swedish support of SEK 100 million to the GFU Initiative.

## Inter-Agency Humanitarian Response Coordination

### Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC)

In November, nearly 2.8 million people were reached by FSLC partners through food and livelihood assistance across Ukraine. Donetsk (over 560,000 people), Kharkiv (over 550,000 people), Zaporizhzhia (over 410,000 people), Kherson (over 370,000) and Dnipro (over 320,000 people) are the top five oblasts with the greatest assistance reach.

On 5 December, the first partners meeting was held in Sumy, where the Charitable Foundation "Rokada" was elected as the oblast Coordination Focal Point (CFP), adding to the growing CFP base across Ukraine – currently 13, to date.

On 30 November, the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund Second Standard Allocation was launched, targeting the most vulnerable people in locations identified with the greatest

need of assistance. Eligible partners are to submit their proposals by 5 January. The FSLC is closely collaborating with the Cluster Lead Agencies, and OCHA. Other clusters will be involved in three multi-sectorial priorities, out of seven endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

On the same day, over 120 partners attended the national partners meeting in Kyiv. The FSLC shared with the partners the October response overview. In total, the number of unique reporting organizations has increased from 27 in January to 74 in 2023, so far.

### Logistics Cluster

The Logistics Cluster continues to support humanitarian organisations by providing logistics coordination and information management, and by facilitating access to common logistics services free-of-charge to the user.

On 1 December, the end-of-year [Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring \(CCPM\) survey](#) has been launched and remains open till 31 December.

On 29 November, the sub-national coordination meeting was held in Dnipro, bringing together 38 participants from 22 organisations.

Between 27 November and 10 December 2023, 479 m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian relief items were received in common storage on behalf of four partners (equivalent to 10 truckloads). As of 10 December, the Cluster is storing 2,455 m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian cargo (57 percent WASH, 35 percent shelter and 8 percent other cargo) on behalf of 12 partners (equivalent to 52 truckloads).

During the same period, 52 mt of humanitarian commodities (49 percent shelter, 27 percent wash, 19 percent food security and 5 percent other cargo) were dispatched on behalf of eight partners to seven locations across Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

Of the relief items transported, cargo was consolidated, and transport facilitated for two inter-agency convoys, delivering 23 mt of relief items on behalf of six partners through three WFP trucks to Chasiv Yar and Siversk both in Donetsk oblast.

By 10 December, 3,150 mt of relief items were delivered on behalf of 12 partners through 101 inter-agency convoys (consisting of 426 WFP-managed truckloads of aid) to 114 locations across Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Sumy and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts.

### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

The ETC continues to support enhanced coordination of humanitarian action through provision of technological solutions. On 12 December, the 2023 User Satisfaction Survey report was published, with an overall user satisfaction rate of 99 percent for ETC services and activities in Ukraine.

### Internet Connectivity

So far, secure internet connectivity services have been provided to 14 humanitarian organisations including UN agencies and INGOs in humanitarian inter-agency workspaces in Lviv, Kharkiv and Odesa.

To extend internet connectivity to bomb shelters and invincibility points in Mykolaiv oblast, ETC is supporting installation and set-up of a local internet service in Novyi Buh. As of 15 December, installation has been completed at 4 invincibility points.

Technical support is provided to WFP and other UN agencies in their assessment and installation of the Remote Site on Vehicle (RSoV) solution. Leveraging the experience of the RSoV solution, ETC is supporting WFP HQ to develop a similar global prototype of a vehicle mountable Starlink modification, to be utilized in Field Offices for internet connectivity.

### Very High Frequency (VHF) and Radio

On 6 and 14 December, the ETC completed installation of a Very High Frequency (VHF) radio repeaters in Dnipro and Lviv respectively. Coverage of all five repeaters including Kharkiv, Kyiv and Luch is currently being mapped.

Reprogramming of all handheld and mobile radios for all UN agencies is ongoing in collaboration with each agency's ICT staff to speed up the process. So far, 91 percent of handheld and 75 percent of mobile radios have been reprogrammed. Between 4 and 7 December, the Cluster also provided security communications trainings to 60 staff from OCHA and UNHCR, as well as three briefing sessions in collaboration with WHO to 54 staff from Ukrainian Scientific and Practical Centre of Emergency Medical Care and Disaster Medicine of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health.

## Funding Outlook

Thanks to the generosity of 30 donors and partners, WFP continues to provide lifesaving food and cash assistance to conflict-affected and most vulnerable populations, as well as support the humanitarian community with common logistics and telecommunication services.

To date, in 2023, WFP Ukraine received funds from 42 various entities including over 20 distinct private donors. During the reporting period, an additional contribution of EUR 17 million was confirmed by the European Union in support of the winterization response.

Germany became the largest donor for the operation in this calendar year, with the confirmation of EUR 35 million contribution.

Currently funded at 55 percent, WFP requires an additional **USD 184.7 million** for the next six months until June 2024 to sustain its operations. The funding priorities remain food procurement for the emergency response, as well as support for national social safety nets and agricultural mine-action.

